How to get a seat at the Annual Representative Meeting (ARM)

Purpose of these pages
In 2005, the BMA’s Representative Body (RB) agreed changes to its constitution aimed at increasing access to the Annual Representative Meeting (ARM). The ARM is one of the BMA’s main policy making bodies and these pages will explain the ways in which members of the Association can obtain seats at the ARM.

The 2019 ARM will be held in Belfast from Monday 24 June to Thursday 27 June inclusive. Registration will open on Sunday 23 June from 3 pm.

Membership of the RB and constitution
There are 560 seats on the RB. 280 of these are allocated to the BMA divisions and another 280 are allocated to the branches of practice (see the list below) as well as to minority groups, overseas branches and others.

The branches of practice are:
(a) academics
(b) armed forces
(c) consultants
(d) general practice
(e) junior doctors
(f) occupational medicine
(g) public health medicine
(h) staff, associate specialists and specialty doctors
(i) members in practice but not covered by (a) to (h) above
(j) medical students
(k) retired members

Routes to the ARM
There are three routes for interested BMA members to use for attendance at the ARM:
1. They can seek one of the 280 seats allocated to BMA divisions.
2. They can apply (via the regional councils in England and BMA national councils in the devolved nations) for division seats which the divisions have been unable to fill.
3. They can seek one of the seats allocated to their branch of practice.

More information about these routes follows:

1. Via BMA divisions:
Nominations are sought from the 173 BMA divisions to fill the 280 seats allocated to divisions throughout the UK. Representatives from divisions are divided into the branch of practice categories set out above.
Divisions must elect their representatives by 22 February (preferably earlier if possible) and must submit the names of their representative(s) via the events air portal no later than 1 March 2019.

Members interested in obtaining a place at the ARM via their division should notify their division’s honorary secretary of their interest when nominations are being sought. If members are unable to attend the division meeting at which representatives are being elected they should register their interest in writing or by phone or email. The division secretary’s contact details can be found on the division notices sent to members informing them of forthcoming meetings of their division. If members are unable to get in touch with their division secretary they should contact their regional centre (in England) or national office (in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) in the first instance, or email the BMA council secretariat ARMseats@bma.org.uk.

Please adhere to the following bye-laws when electing representatives:

31 (2) In any one year where a division is entitled to elect two representatives, not more than one shall be in the same primary branch of practice as defined in bye-laws 56 (2) 2.2 and 58 (4).

(3) In any one year where a division is entitled to elect three or more representatives not more than two shall be in the same primary branch of practice as defined in bye-laws 56 (2) 2.2 and 58 (4).

N.B Any seats that are unfilled by 1 March will be reallocated by the regional, national councils (see below) once the deadline for notification of division representatives to the BMA council secretariat has passed.

2. Via the regional councils / national councils:
There are ten regional councils in England:

Eastern
East Midlands
London
North east
North west
South central
South east Coast
South west
West Midlands
Yorkshire

There are three national councils:

Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales

The regional / national council route is available to interested members who have not been able to obtain a place at the ARM via their division, either because the division is inactive or because the
number of places allocated to the division has been filled. It is also available to interested members who have been unable to obtain a place via their branch of practice group (see section 3 below). Those who wish to apply for a seat via the regional or national council, should complete the nomination form which will be made available on the website after 1 March and should be submitted directly to your relevant BMA regional centre. Please do not submit the forms to council secretariat. It will be the responsibility of the appropriate contact at the relevant BMA regional centre to notify the council secretariat of the regional council’s representatives.

Alternatively, a nomination form may be obtained from Jesamine Noel on 020 7383 6926/ jnoel@bma.org.uk. Please apply for one of these seats after 1 March and your nomination will be considered at the regional council meeting which will normally take place shortly after 8 March. National councils will consider nominations at an appropriate meeting of council or its executive, or by electronic means during the same period if no meetings are planned during this time. Members will be notified (by the relevant regional centre staff) shortly after the regional / national council meeting whether their nomination has been successful.

3. Branch of practice seats:
The number of RB seats allocated to the branches of practice and other nominating bodies is 280. The branches of practice are listed in the 'Membership of the RB and constitution' section on page 1 and their seats are either allocated by the annual branch of practice conferences or the branch of practice committees.

The number of seats allocated to each branch of practice reflects the average membership of each group over the previous 12 month period to October, apart from the smaller branch of practice groups where three seats are allocated to each. Members interested in obtaining a place via their branch of practice group should contact the appropriate secretariat below asap. The secretariats will be able to advise on the nominations procedure and deadlines for that branch of practice.

Where possible, please avoid applying for multiple ARM seats from different routes as this will disenfranchise other members. However, in the event that you have gained more than one voting seat please contact the relevant secretariat as soon as possible to release one of the seats.

Contact details for regional centres, national offices and regional coordinators:

North east regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Adele Heeley/ 0113 261 8337/ AHeeley@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Nikki Heron/ 0113 261 8305/ NHeron@bma.org.uk

Yorkshire & Humber regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Elaine McAvoy/ 0113 261 8302/ EMcavoy@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Monique Barker / 0113 261 8306/ MBarker@bma.org.uk

North west regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Michael Cheetham/ 0113 261 8348/ MCheetham@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Louise Concepcion/ 0151 702 8404/ LConcepcion@bma.org.uk
West Midlands regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Melanie Sutton / 0121 452 7724 / MSutton@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Samantha Ewing / 0121 452 7712 / SEwing@bma.org.uk

East Midlands regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Jim Stringer / 0113 261 8300 / JStringer@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Anne-Marie McKay / 0113 261 8323 / AMcKay@bma.org.uk

Eastern regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Nigel Mason / 0208 655 8805 / NMason@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Lorraine Smith / 0208 655 8809 / LSmith@bma.org.uk

South central regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Hugh Townsend / 0208 655 8804 / HTownsend@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Susanne Howard / 0117 945 3128 / SHoward@bma.org.uk

South east coast regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Hugh Townsend / 0208 655 8804 / HTownsend@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Andrea Grace / 0117 945 3111 / AGrace@bma.org.uk

South west regional council
Regional coordinator/IRO: Abigail Moore / 0117 945 3118 / Abigail.Moore@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Suzanne Gowers / 0208 655 8812 / SGowers@bma.org.uk

London regional council
Regional coordinator: Andrew Barton / 020 8655 8863 / ABarton@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Emma Bennett / 020 8655 8815 / EBennett@bma.org.uk

National offices

Northern Ireland:
(Council)
Member engagement manager: Avril Campbell / 028 9026 9669 / ACampbell@bma.org.uk
Member engagement officer: Alison McCracken / 028 9026 9688 / AMcCracken@bma.org.uk

Scotland:
(Council)
Senior policy executive: Anne Jenkins / 0131 247 3013 / AJenkins@bma.org.uk
Committee policy executive: Janette Moran / 0131 247 3035 / JMoran@bma.org.uk

Wales:
(Council)
Regional coordinator: Sarah Miller / 029 2047 4610 / SMiller@bma.org.uk
Secretarial contact: Nadia Hughes / 029 2047 4610 / NHughes@bma.org.uk
Branch of practice contacts

Armed forces doctors should contact Catherine Steele – CSteele@bma.org.uk
Consultants should contact the honorary secretary of their RC in the first instance. If their places are full contact Thomas Andrews - TAndrews@bma.org.uk
GPs should contact Karen Day- KDay@bma.org.uk
Junior doctors should contact Nikolas Baksi - NBaksi@bma.org.uk
Medical academics should contact David Cloke - DCloke@bma.org.uk
Medical students should contact Catherine Steele – CSteele@bma.org.uk
Occupational health doctors should contact is Daniel Carry - DCarry@bma.org.uk
Public health medicine doctors should contact David Cloke - DCloke@bma.org.uk
Retired members should contact Sally-Ann Cole - SCole@bma.org.uk (please note that nominations for this group are usually sought from those in attendance at the retired members conference which is due to take place on 15 March 2019)
Staff, associate specialists and speciality doctors should contact Lucy Kerr - LKerr@bma.org.uk